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A Lesson on Economic Connections: From Many Places by Stephanie Tierney

Grade Level: Grade 5

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: Economics, importing, connections.

Lesson Description: In this lesson, we are learning about connections between different countries and the importance of importing.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.1: Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.5.4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)

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Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

Instructions: Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

Economic Connections: From Many Places

by

Content: People need many things. In some countries, people can get much of what they need. But they still need to get things from other countries. If you look at the labels of food in the grocery store, it is like a geography lesson. You will find foods that come from many other places. Long ago, people used to just eat what they could grow or find in their own area. Today, people can get foods from all around the world.

Much more than food comes from different countries. For example, in the United States we do not have any rubber trees. Those trees need a warm, hot climate. So we get rubber from other countries. One country that sells rubber is Brazil. So if you have a ball or even an eraser that is made of rubber, it started out on a tree in a warm country. Factories in the United States use rubber to make tires.

When a country gets something from another country, it is an import. In Canada it is too cold to grow lemons. So people in Canada get lemons that come from the United States and other countries. They import the fruit. So if you buy lemonade in Canada, it comes from another country. When a country sells something to an other country it is an export.

Canada has a lot of electricity. Canada has great rivers. People built dams across them. A dam is like a wall. The dam has wheels on it. Those are water wheels. When the water rushes through them, it turns the wheels. The wheels make electricity when they turn. Canada uses electricity to make things.

Some Canadian factories make aluminum. That is a useful metal. It takes a lot of electricity to make it. But the Canadians do not have bauxite. That is an ore. That is something found under the ground. Canadian factories get it from mines. But the mines are not in Canada. They are in Jamaica.

If you have a bicycle, it may be made from aluminum. And it probably has rubber tires. That bicycle may have been made in the United States. But its parts come from other places. That one bicycle may have parts from Brazil, Canada, Jamaica, and the United States.

The same kinds of connections are part of many cars. Long ago, cars were made mostly in the United States. Now cars are made in many countries. But wherever they are made, they have parts from different places.

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Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

Q: 1 WordPhrase: Import **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author says, "When a country gets something from another country, it is an import..." What does import mean?

A: To visit another country.

B: To get supplies from another country.

C: To upload a photo.

D: To eat.

Question: How do you use the word "import" properly?

A: In order to make certain things we need, we have to import them from another country,

B: I have to import this food into the oven.

C: I must import these photos.

D: I want to import to another place.

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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Why do we need to import supplies from other countries?

In the passage, it was stated that we need to import supplies from other countries. Why do you think we need to do that? Is it absolutely necessary to import supplies from other countries? What would happen if we did not import supplies from other countries?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Imagine you are building something, but know you do not have all the parts you need to build what you want. In order for you to build it, you must use parts that someone else gives you. Please write about something you would want to build, and where you would get the parts you need. (This is to show you the importance of importing and communicating with other countries.)

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